

Corporate Parenting Training Offer

Introduction

When a child or young person comes into care, the council becomes the Corporate Parent. Although elected members will not all have the same level of direct involvement with services for looked-after children and care leavers, they all share corporate parenting responsibility. They have a responsibility to ensure that the council is doing all it can to ensure that looked-after children and care leavers are safe, secure, have stability in their lives and are supported to achieve their full potential.

Training and awareness-raising is available to support the council and partner agencies to be good corporate parents, as set out below.

1. Total Respect Training

Total Respect is a unique training course delivered by Care-experienced young people. The objectives of the training are:

- to educate and provide an understanding of what it is like to be a looked after child;
- to promote young people's rights to participate in decisions that may affect them
- to take on the views and experiences of children and young people in care, to listen to them effectively and act on their wishes and feelings

This is essential training for everyone who has a corporate parenting responsibility and a requirement for all members of Corporate Parenting Board.

2. Corporate Parenting Induction

The Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny produce a short guide "10 questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked after children.

This guidance is available from the [North West Employers website](#) by searching for the document : 10 Questions to ask if you're scrutinising services for looked-after children and is an essential induction for everyone on the Corporate Parenting Board.

3. Safeguarding Training

[Bury Safeguarding Board](#) run a programme of training to support professionals, volunteers and the independent sector in their work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people.

This training is particularly beneficial to staff, volunteers and managers working with children and families in Bury.

4. Children's Trust learning sessions

Bury Children's Trust run short awareness raising sessions to increase understanding of issues affecting children and young people in Bury. There are fact sheets on these issues on [the Children's Trust Council's internet page](#)

Children's Trust learning sessions are recommended for everyone who works or lives with children and young people or whose work impacts on them.

5. Meeting children and young people

Meeting children and young people in care and care leavers provides an opportunity to hear directly from them about how they feel about their lives and the support that they receive and shows children and young people that their corporate parents are interested in them. There are a number of children and young people's events and forums throughout the year to which Councillors and other officers are invited.

This is particularly important for members of the Corporate Parenting Board and others who are making decisions which affect the lives of children and young people in care and care leavers.

6. Meeting teams

Talking to staff who work with children and young people in care and care leavers is an important way to help in understanding the lives of young people and how we need to support them.

This is particularly beneficial to members of the Corporate Parenting Board who can be provided with the opportunity to meet teams and individuals as required.

7. Foster Training

Foster Carers are invited to undertake a 10 week attachment course. The course helps to understand the needs of children and young people in care and care leavers in terms of their emotional needs and formulation of relationships to care givers.

This invitation has been extended to include members of the Corporate Parenting Board who have a particular interest in this area.

8. School Governors' Training

Training for Designated Governors for Children and Young People in Care is delivered by the Virtual School Headteacher. This is arranged through the Bury Primary Learning Collaborative and the Governor Development Board.

This is required training for Designated School Governors and is open to all School Governors to attend.

9. Additional training

A number of organisations provide training on issues that affect children and young people in Bury. You can find information about training at the following Children & Families' link: [Bury Directory - Staff training](#)